

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Finance and Tax Committee

[2009H7157.hms]

BILL: HB 7157, Engrossed 2 (CS/CS/CS/SB 2244)

INTRODUCER: Finance and Tax Council (Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means, Finance and Tax Committee, Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee and Senator Altman and others)

SUBJECT: Conservation Lands

DATE: May 1, 2009

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 - 068061 to Senate Amendment 1 - 963784 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the Senate amendment:

- No references to “conservation protection agreements”
- Does not repeat provisions of s. 704.06, F.S., in the newly-created exemption section
- Does not provide for assessment under s. 193.501, F.S. for land subject to a management plan, absent a conveyance of development rights or covenanted conservation restrictions
- Provides that land dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes that is used exclusively for conservation purposes may receive income from activities that are consistent with a management plan when the income is used to implement, maintain, and manage the management plan
- Provides that land less than 40 contiguous acres does not qualify for a conservation lands exemption unless the use of the land for conservation purposes is determined by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) to yield a significant public benefit.
- Requires that land under 40 acres that land approved by the ARC must have a management plan and a designated manager.
- Provides that structures and other improvements that are auxiliary to the use of land for conservation purposes are exempt to the same extent as the underlying land.